

Amendments to the Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A communication network for providing emergency services, said communication network including a packet network, the communication network comprising:

an emergency services network comprising:

a plurality of emergency services, and

a plurality of response gateways connected to the emergency services and connected to the packet network; and

a plurality of conforming emergency systems connected to the packet network, each conforming emergency system (CES) of the plurality of conforming emergency systems is configured to establish a media channel over the packet network with one of the plurality of response gateways responsive to an emergency event, and is configured to transmit a retrieval key over the media channel to the one response gateway;

wherein each response gateway is configured to transmit queries for information corresponding with the retrieval key responsive to receipt of the retrieval key from one of the plurality of CES's, is configured to receive the information originating from the emergency services corresponding with the retrieval key, and is configured to transmit the information over the media channel to the one conforming emergency system to provide the CES with information for handling an emergency event.

Claim 2. (Previously Amended) The communication network of claim 1 wherein the CES is configured to establish the media channel using Session Initiation Protocol (SIP).

Claim 3. (Previously Amended) The communication network of claim 1 wherein:
each CES is configured to transmit a request message for the media channel to the
packet network; and

each response gateway is configured to dynamically establish the media channel
responsive to receipt of the request message.

Claim 4. (Previously Amended) The communication network of claim 3 wherein:
each response gateway is configured to transmit a response message to the packet
network indicating an acceptance of the media channel responsive to the request
message; and

each CES is configured to initiate a process to dynamically establish the media
channel between the CES and the response gateway that transmitted the response over the
packet network responsive to receipt of the response message.

Claim 5. (Previously Amended) The communication network of claim 3 wherein:
each response gateway is configured to initiate a process to dynamically establish
the media channel between the CES and the response gateway that transmitted the
request over the packet network responsive to the request message.

Claim 6. (Previously Amended) The communication network of claim 3 wherein:
each response gateway is configured to negotiate parameters of the media channel
before the media channel is dynamically established.

Claim 7. (Previously Amended) The communication network of claim 3 further comprising:

a channel setup system connected to the packet network, the channel setup system, responsive to receiving the request message from a requesting one of the plurality of CES's, is configured to select one of the plurality of response gateways, and to transmit the request message to the selected response gateway.

8. (Previously Amended) The communication network of claim 7 wherein:
the channel setup system includes a data structure that stores information on the plurality of response gateways, the channel setup system is configured to access the information in the data structure to select one of the plurality of response gateways.

Claim 9. (Original) The communication network of claim 8 wherein the information in the data structure includes at least one of a capacity or current load of each of the plurality of response gateways, an operational status of each of the plurality of response gateways, a number of media channels established with each of the plurality of response gateways, security, a location of each response gateway, data connectivity speed of each response gateway, the type of protocol used by each response gateway, or the type of each response gateway.

Claim 10. (Original) The communication network of claim 7 wherein the channel setup system comprises a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) proxy or a SIP server.

Claim 11. (Previously Amended) The communication network of claim 7
wherein:

each response gateway is configured to transmit a response message indicating an acceptance of the media channel to the channel setup system responsive to the request message; and

the channel setup system is configured to receive the response message and to transmit the response message to the requesting CES.

Claim 12. (Previously Amended) The communication network of claim 7
wherein:

each response gateway is configured to transmit a response message indicating an acceptance of the media channel to the requesting CES responsive to the request message.

Claim 13. (Previously Amended) The communication network of claim 1
wherein:

each response gateway is configured to transmit a request message for the media channel to the packet network; and

each CES is configured to respond to the request message to dynamically establish the media channel responsive to receipt of the request message.

Claim 14. (Previously Amended) The communication network of claim 13
wherein:

each CES is configured to transmit a response message to the packet network
indicating an acceptance of the media channel responsive to the request message; and

each response gateway is configured to initiate a process to dynamically establish
the media channel between the CES and the one response gateway over the packet
network responsive to receipt of the response message.

Claim 15. (Previously Amended) The communication network of claim 13
wherein:

the CES is configured to initiate a process to dynamically establish the media
channel between the CES and the one response gateway over the packet network
responsive to receipt of the request message.

Claim 16. (Previously Amended) The communication network of claim 13
wherein:

the response gateway is configured to negotiate parameters of the media channel
before the media channel is dynamically established.

Claim 17. (Previously Amended) The communication network of claim 13
further comprising:

a channel setup system connected to the packet network, the channel setup
system, responsive to receiving the request message from a requesting one of the plurality

of response gateways, is configured to transmit the request message to a selected one of the plurality of CES's.

Claim 18. (Original) The communication network of claim 17 wherein the channel setup system comprises a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) proxy or a SIP server.

Claim 19. (Previously Amended) The communication network of claim 17 wherein:

the selected CES is configured to transmit a response message indicating an acceptance of the media channel to the channel setup system responsive to the request message; and

the channel setup system is configured to receive the response message and to transmit the response message to the requesting response gateway.

Claim 20. (Currently Amended) The communication network of claim 17 wherein:

the selected CES is configured to transmit a response message indicating an acceptance of the media channel to the requesting response gateway responsive to the request message.

Claim 21. (Original) The communication network of claim 1 wherein the CES comprises a computer system for a Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP).

Claim 22. (Original) The communication network of claim 1 wherein the CES comprises a computer system for one of a hospital, a police department, a fire station, a fire alarm company, a security company, an ambulance service, a state 9-1-1 coordinator, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Department of Homeland Security, the National Geophysical Data Center, or the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

Claim 23. (Previously Amended) The communication network of claim 1 further comprising:

a service/name resolution (SNR) system configured to receive the retrieval key from one of the plurality of response gateways, identify which of the plurality of emergency services correspond with the retrieval key, and transmit a message to the one response gateway indicating the identified emergency services; and

the one response gateway is configured to transmit queries that include the retrieval key to each of the identified emergency services responsive to receipt of the message from the SNR system.

Claim 24. (Previously Amended) The communication network of claim 23 wherein:

at least one of the identified emergency services is configured to transmit information corresponding with the retrieval key to the one response gateway responsive to the queries; and

the one response gateway is configured to transmit the information to a requesting one of the plurality of CES's to facilitate the requesting CES in handling an emergency event.

Claim 25. (Previously Amended) The communication network of claim 23 wherein:

at least one of the identified emergency services is configured to transmit information corresponding with the retrieval key to a requesting one of the plurality of CES's to facilitate the requesting CES in handling an emergency event responsive to the queries.

Claim 26. (Previously Amended) The communication network of claim 23 wherein one of the identified emergency services is configured to initiate a notification service for notifying third parties of the emergency event responsive to a query.

Claims 27 – 32: Previously Canceled.

Claim 33. (Original) The communication network of claim 1 wherein the plurality of emergency services includes at least one of an ALI database, a Mobile Positioning Center (MPC), a Gateway Mobile Location Center (GMLC), an Emergency Auxiliary Service Provider (EASP), and a Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) server.

Claim 34. (Original) The communication network of claim 1 wherein the packet network comprises an Internet Protocol (IP) network.

Claim 35. (Original) The communication network of claim 1 wherein the retrieval key comprises one of a telephone number, a network address, a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) address, a trunk ID, a social security number, a street address, an employee ID, an email address, and an incident ID.

Claim 36. (Original) The communication network of claim 1 wherein the information comprises one of streaming video, streaming audio, graphics data, voice, text or binary data, or executable instructions or scripts.

Claim 37. (Original) The communication network of claim 1 wherein the emergency event includes a 9-1-1 call.

Claim 38. (Previously Amended) A method of operating a communication network for providing emergency services, the communication network comprising an emergency services network and a plurality of conforming emergency systems connected to a packet network, the emergency services network comprising a plurality of emergency services and a plurality of response gateways connected to the emergency services and to the packet network, the method comprising the steps of:

in each of the conforming emergency systems, establishing a media channel with one of the response gateways;

in one of the conforming emergency systems (CES), responsive to establishing a media channel with one of the response gateways over the packet network and responsive to an emergency event, transmitting a retrieval key over the media channel to the one response gateway;

receiving the retrieval key in the one response gateway, and transmitting a query for information corresponding to the retrieval key to at least one of the plurality of emergency services; and

receiving the information in the one response gateway originating from the emergency services corresponding with the retrieval key, and transmitting the information over the media channel to the CES to provide the CES with information for handling the emergency event.

Claim 39. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 38 wherein the step of establishing a media channel over the packet network comprises:

using Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) to establish the media channel over the packet network.

Claim 40. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 38 wherein the step of establishing a media channel comprises:

transmitting a request message for the media channel from the CES to the packet network; and

receiving the request message in the one response gateway, and responding to the request message to dynamically establish the media channel.

Claim 41. (Original) The method of claim 40 wherein the step of responding to the request message comprises transmitting a response message to the packet network indicating an acceptance of the media channel, the method further comprising:

receiving the response message in the CES, and initiating a process to dynamically establish the media channel between the CES and the one response gateway over the packet network.

Claim 42. (Original) The method of claim 40 wherein the step of responding to the request message comprises initiating a process in the CES to dynamically establish the media channel between the CES and the one response gateway over the packet network.

Claim 43. (Original) The method of claim 40 further comprising the step of:
negotiating parameters of the media channel before the media channel is dynamically established.

Claim 44. (Original) The method of claim 40 wherein the communication network further comprises a channel setup system connected to the packet network, the method further comprising the step of:

receiving the request message in the channel setup system from the CES, and selecting the one response gateway and transmitting the request message to the one response gateway.

Claim 45. (Original) The method of claim 44 wherein the channel setup system includes a data structure that stores information on the plurality of response gateways, the method further comprising the step of:

accessing the information in the data structure to select the one response gateway.

Claim 46. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 45 wherein accessing the information in the data structure comprises accessing at least one of a capacity or current load of each of the plurality of response gateways, an operational status of each of the plurality of response gateways, a number of media channels established with each of the plurality of response gateways, security, a location of each response gateway, data connectivity speed of each response gateway, the type of protocol used by each response gateway, or the type of each response gateway.

Claim 47: Previously Canceled.

Claim 48. (Original) The method of claim 44 wherein the step of responding to the request message comprises transmitting a response message indicating an acceptance of the media channel from the one response gateway to the packet network, the method further comprising the step of:

receiving the response message in the channel setup system, and transmitting the response message to the CES.

Claim 49. (Original) The method of claim 44 wherein the step of responding to the request message comprises transmitting a response message indicating an acceptance of the media channel from the one response gateway to the CES.

Claim 50. (Original) The method of claim 38 further comprising the steps of:
transmitting a request message for the media channel from the one response gateway to the packet network; and
receiving the request message in the CES, and responding to the request message to dynamically establish the media channel.

Claim 51. (Original) The method of claim 50 wherein the step of responding to the request message comprises transmitting a response message to the packet network indicating an acceptance of the media channel, the method further comprising the steps of:

receiving the response message in the one response gateway, and initiating a process to dynamically establish the media channel between the CES and the one response gateway over the packet network.

Claim 52. (Original) The method of claim 50 wherein the step of responding to the request message comprises initiating a process in the CES to dynamically establish the media channel between the CES and the one response gateway over the packet network.

Claim 53. (Original) The method of claim 50 further comprising the step of:

negotiating parameters of the media channel before the media channel is

dynamically established.

Claim 54. (Original) The method of claim 50 wherein the communication

network further comprises a channel setup system connected to the packet network, the

method further comprising the steps of:

receiving the request message in the channel setup system from the one response

gateway, and transmitting the request message to the CES.

Claim 55: Previously Canceled.

Claim 56. (Original) The method of claim 54 wherein the step of responding to

the request message comprises transmitting a response message indicating an acceptance

of the media channel from the CES to the channel setup system, the method further

comprising the steps of:

receiving the response message in the channel setup system, and transmitting the

response message to the one response gateway.

Claim 57. (Original) The method of claim 54 wherein the step of responding to

the request message comprises transmitting a response message indicating an acceptance

of the media channel from the CES to the one response gateway.

Claims 58 and 59: Previously Canceled.

Claim 60. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 38 wherein the communication network further comprises a service/name recognition (SNR) system, the method further comprising the steps of:

receiving the retrieval key from the one response gateway, identifying which of the plurality of emergency services correspond with the retrieval key, and transmitting a message to the one response gateway indicating the identified emergency services; and

receiving the message in the one response gateway from the SNR system, and transmitting queries that include the retrieval key to each of the identified emergency services.

Claim 61. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 60 further comprising the steps of:

responding to the queries in at least one of the identified emergency services by transmitting information corresponding with the retrieval key to the one response gateway; and

transmitting the information from the one response gateway to the CES.

Claim 62. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 60 further comprising the steps of:

responding to the queries in at least one of the identified emergency services by transmitting information corresponding with the retrieval key to the CES.

Claim 63. (Original) The method of claim 60 further comprising the step of:
initiating a notification service in at least one of the identified emergency services
for notifying third parties of the emergency event responsive to a query.

Claim 64. (Original) The method of claim 38 wherein the communication
network further comprises an SNR system, the method further comprising the steps of:
receiving the retrieval key from the one response gateway, identifying which of
the plurality of emergency services correspond with the retrieval key, and transmitting
queries that include the retrieval key to each of the identified emergency services.

Claim 65. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 64 further comprising the
steps of:

responding to the queries in at least one of the identified emergency services by
transmitting information corresponding with the retrieval key to the SNR system;
receiving the information corresponding with the retrieval key in the SNR system
and transmitting the information to the one response gateway; and
transmitting the information from the one response gateway to the CES.

Claim 66. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 64 further comprising the
steps of:

responding to the queries in at least one of the identified emergency services by
transmitting information corresponding with the retrieval key to the SNR system; and

receiving the information corresponding with the retrieval key in the SNR system and transmitting the information to the CES.

Claim 67. (Original) The method of claim 64 further comprising the step of:
initiating a notification service in at least one identified emergency service for notifying third parties of the emergency event responsive to a query.

Claim 68. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 64 wherein the queries also include an instruction to transmit the information to the one response gateway, the method further comprising the steps of:

responding to the queries in at least one of the identified emergency services by transmitting information corresponding with the retrieval key to the one response gateway; and

transmitting the information from the one response gateway to the CES to.

Claim 69. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 64 wherein the queries also include an instruction to transmit the information to the CES, the method further comprising the step of:

responding to the queries in at least one of the identified emergency services by transmitting information corresponding with the retrieval key to the CES.

Claims 70 – 74: Previously Canceled.